

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAU ECA ET PORG
SUBJ: MENGISTU MEETS WITH OAU AND ECA LEADERS

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 1796 (NOTAL), B) ADDIS ABABA 1907
(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: APRIL 1 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED MEETINGS BETWEEN
ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE, LT. COL. MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM,
AND ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU AND ECA
LEADERS ON SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, STATING PREVIOUS REGIME
DENIED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS EVER SINCE RETURN OF FORMER
KING AFTER FASCIST INVASION. IN EPMG'S CONTINUING POLITICAL
DIPLOMATIC EFFORT MENGISTU RAISED PROBLEM CREATED BY IMPERIAL-
ISTS IN RED SEA REGION, FEUDAL AND ARISTOCRATIC
ELEMENTS ORGANIZED THROUGH THE SUDAN, FUTURE INDEPENDENCE
OF DJIBOUTI, AND CURRENT ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE IN ACCRA.
ETEKI RESPONDED THAT ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION IS VICTORY FOR ALL
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OPPRESSED PEOPLES AND ADDED HE PLEASED WELL-BEING AND
WELFARE OF DIPLOMATS IN ETHIOPIA BEING WELL PROTECTED.
ETEKI ALSO NOTED INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
ANOTHER COUNTRY FORBIDDEN BY OAU CHARTER. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE FOR CURRENT ACCRA CONFERENCE AND SAID "THE TIME HAS
TNOV COME FOR A DISCUSSION AT OAU
LEVEL OF PROBLEM IN

THE RED SEA REGION." DR. ADEDEJI EXPRESSED THANKS FOR CARE AND PROTECTION EXTENDED BY ETHIOPIANS TO DIPLOMATS ASSIGNED HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HELD TALKS WITH OAU SECGEN ETEKI AND ECA EXECSEC ADEDEJI, MARCH 31. APRIL1 HERALD REPORTED MENGISTU BRIEFED BOTH LEADERS ON PROGRESS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND CONTENDED HOW VICTORIES OF REVOLUTION NOT ONLY FOR ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE BUT BOR PEOPLE OF AFRICA, NON-ALIGNED, AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. IN DISCUSSING MACHINATIONS OF IMPERIALISTS, MENGISTU REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO PROBLEM CREATED IN RED SEA REGION BY IMPERIALISTS. HE NOTED REACTIONARY ARAB COUNTRIES NOW ENGAGED IN CONSPIRACY DESIGNED TO HINDER GULL AND COMPLETE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF ETHIOPIA. HE ADDED REACTIONARY ARAB COUNTRIES, IN COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISTS, HAVE THROUGH THE SUDAN, ORGANIZED FEUDAL AND ARISTOCRATIC ELEMENTS ALREADY DRIVEN OUT OF ETHIOPIA. TURNING TO DJIBOUTI, MENGISTU STATED THERE THOSE WHO WANT DJIBOUTI UNITED WITH ETHIOPIA BUT ETHIOPIA FULLY SUPPORTED POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF DJIBOUTI NATIONALIST FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THIS POSITION WOULD BE EXPLAINED AT ACCRA ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE.

2. IN HIS TURN, OAU SECGEN ETEKI REPORTEDLY STATED ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION IS VICTORY FOR ALL OPPRESSED

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PEOPLES OF WORLD. HE CONTINUED, ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIA EXPERIENCING CERTAIN PROBLEMS AS RESULT OF REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, PLEASED WELL-BEING AND WELFARE OF DIPLOMATS IN COUNTRY WELL PROTECTED. ETEKI STATE HE HAS BEEN MAKING EFFORT TO HELP IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND HER NEIGHBORS (READ SUDAN AND SOMALIA) AND REITERATED OAU CHARTER FORBIDS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. CONCERNING ACCRA ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE, ETEKI STATED IT OPPORTUNITY FOR AFRICANS TO IRON OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES AND OVERCOME SABOTAGE WHICH IMPERIALIST WEAVING TO PREVENT DJIBOUTI'S MARCH TO FULL INDEPENDENCE. SURPRISINGLY, AND NO DOUBT TO ETHIOPIA'S BENEFIT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, ETEKI SAID "TIME HAS NOW COME FOR DISCUSSIONS AT OAU LEVEL OF PROBLEM IN RED SEA REGION". PER-FUNCTORILY, ECA EXEC SEC ADEDEJI REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR CARE AND PROTECTION EXTENDED BY ETHIOPIANS TO DIPLOMATS.

3. COMMENT: SUCCESSION OF MEETINGS BETWEEN HIGHEST
LEVELS OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND AFRICAN DELEGATIONS
HERE, PLUS ETHIOPIAN DELEGATIONS SENT TO WEST AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA, CLARLY PART OF MAJOR ETHIOPAIN
DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO GAIN AT LEAST POLITICAL SUPPORT
FROM FELLOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON ISSUES CURRENTLY MOST
CRUCIAL TO ETHIOPIA. THESE ISSUES ARE ERITREA AND
PRINCIPAL OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, COMING INDEPENDENCE
OF DJIBOUTI, AND ETHIOPIA'S CRITICAL NEED FOR CONTINUED
ACCESS TO THE RED SEA. IT UNKNOWN WHETHER OAU SECGEN
ETEKI SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF OAU ON RED SEA QUESTION OR
WHETHER ETHIOPIA ONLY TRYING TO RAISE ISSUE TO OAU
LEVEL. IN ANY CASE IT CLEAR, EFFORT BEING MADE TO
BALANCE RECENT ARAB SUPPORTED MEETINGS ON RED SEA
SECURITY. WHETHER ETHIOPIA WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN
BALANCING ARAB EFFORTS IN RED SEA REGION NOT YET
POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE. WHETHER ETEKI REALLY SAID
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ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS VICTORY FOR ALL OPPRESSED
PEOPLES IS QUESTIONABLE. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE TENDENCY
TO PUT STANDARD SOCIALIST RHETORIC IN MOUTH OF SOME
OF MENGISTU'S VISITORS.

TIENKEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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